GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:992
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2002
PENDING INDIRECT TAXES CASES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 67,400 disputes relating to indirect taxes are pending in various courts involving Rs. 11,932 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to some dispute over the appointment of advocates has led to the piling up of customs and excise disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to sort out the differences in the interest of the people?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) &(b): A table showing the number of cases involving disputes relating to Customs and Central Excise revenues before various Appellate Authorities and Courts is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e): No, Sir. In order to effectively conduct the litigation before various Courts and CEGAT, it was proposed to maintain a panel of advocates exclusively for Customs and Central Excise cases with the concurrence of the Law Ministry. A panel of advocates recommended by this Ministry was approved and notified by the Law Ministry for conducting cases before the Supreme Court. Final approval of the names of Advocates to be empanelled to conduct cases before the High Courts is still pending with the Ministry of Law. The matter as to the number of advocates to be empanelled for the High Court panel had been resolved by the then Finance Minister with the then Law Minister. The approval of the Law Ministry is awaited.

Details showing the number of disputes under the indirect tax enactments pending before various Appellate Authorities and Courts to be placed on the Table of the House along with Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 992 for answer on 19.7.2002 by Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, Member of Parliament on Pending Indirect Tax Cases

Table (Amount - Rs in crores)

	Supreme Court (Appeals)# (As on March 2002)		High Courts (As on March 2002)		CEGAT# (2001-2002)		Commissioner (As on April 2002)	
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
Customs	441	84.94	5621	709.79				
Central Excise	1752	1495.98	4636	1523.73				
Total	2193	1580.92	10257	2233.52	29,575	4804	41,893	N.A.

Details of Customs and Central Excise cases separately are not available.